



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1524

DATE: July 9, 2015

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Ambulance, Birthing Centers, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Maternal Health Centers, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Certified Nurse Midwives, Federal Qualified Health Centers, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Institutional –General and Other Practitioner -General

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Processing of Emergency ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2015

The IME maintains a list of diagnosis codes that are considered emergent. With the implementation of ICD-10 and due to the granularity of the ICD-10 code set, the IME has added code categories to the Emergency Code List.

The IME will continue to waive the copayment and the MediPASS provider restriction will be bypassed for emergent conditions. Medicaid members are responsible for a \$3.00 copayment for each visit to a hospital emergency room (ER) for treatment of a non-emergent service as stated in the Iowa Administrative Code 441-79.1(13)k: "Copayment charges are not applicable for emergency services. Emergency services are defined as services provided in a hospital, clinic, office, or other facility that is equipped to furnish the required care, after the sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain), that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in: (1) Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy, (2) Serious impairment to bodily functions, or (3) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part."

Types of Emergency ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes for which Copayment is Waived and the MediPASS Provider Restriction is Bypassed:

- **Similar to ICD-9** – ICD-10 diagnosis codes describing conditions manifested by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain), that the absence of immediate attention could reasonably be expected to result in:
 - Placing the member's health in serious jeopardy,
 - Serious impairment to bodily functions, or
 - Serious dysfunction to any bodily organ or part.
- **New for ICD-10** – All categories of poisoning codes – accidental/unintentional, intentional/self-harm, assault, and undetermined - Initial Encounter

Types of Emergency ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes for which Copayment and the MediPASS Provider Restriction is Applied:

- Codes with a 7th digit of “S” (sequela - late effects of external cause codes)
- Underdosing codes – secondary diagnosis codes (the medical condition that is exacerbated or relapsed would be the primary diagnosis)
- Adverse Effects codes – secondary diagnosis codes (the medical condition that is exacerbated or relapsed would be the primary diagnosis)

If you have any questions please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at ICD-10project@dhs.state.ia.us.